

As a music educator, I believe music is for everyone. It offers a unique experience, allowing anyone to find music they enjoy and resonate with. My journey with music began when I started singing at six years old. Now, I am committed to sharing my passion and knowledge to my students so they can find their own love and appreciation for music. In a high school choral classroom, I emphasize that music can foster essential skills such as independence, listening, creativity, and collaboration. My goal is to explore and perform choral music from various eras and cultures, introducing students to diverse musical traditions while improving musical literacy skills.

To support independence in the choral classroom, I focus on teaching music theory skills, encouraging students to read music effectively during and beyond my class. I will integrate technology, utilizing music theory websites for assignments that students can work on outside of class. This approach provides additional resources and makes learning more accessible in a way that can help students grow musical literacy skills at the personal level.

My classes follow a varied structured rehearsal format, including warm-ups, sight-singing, occasional sectional practice, and large-group rehearsals. Building relationships is important, so I will include weekly check-ins via in-person or online forms to ensure each student feels supported. I hope to create a welcoming environment where students are comfortable exploring their own creativity and having fun with music. I am also passionate about leading extracurricular groups, such as a cappella, vocal jazz, and Madrigals, where students can learn different music styles. These groups enhance students' listening and collaboration skills, offering unique performance opportunities. Madrigals, for example, connect students with older classical music and allows them to perform for the community, fostering school spirit and support for the program.

Creating a safe, inclusive space is central to my philosophy. I have undergone Safe-Zone training to support LGBTQ+ students, and I select diverse choral repertoire from various backgrounds and cultures. I encourage students to discover more underrepresented composers, expanding their understanding and helping them connect with music on a personal level through either solo music or ensemble pieces.

Ultimately, I believe music brings joy and unity to communities. My goal is to share this joy with students and help them find their creative spark. I hope that through music, my students will experience a safe space to be themselves and find a source of lifelong fulfillment.